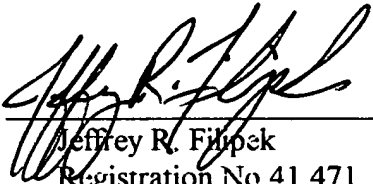


REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-11 have been canceled, claim 12 amended, and claim 13 added. Thus, claims 12 and 13 are active. The decoding means recitation has been moved from independent claim 12 to dependent claim 13 because the decoding means is not essential to the apparatus. Support for the amendments are found in the specification at least at column 61, line 63, to column 62, line 32.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitsuaki OSHIMA et al.

By 

Jeffrey R. Filpek
Registration No. 41,471
Agent for Patentees

JRF/fs
WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P.
2033 K St., N.W., Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20006
Telephone (202) 721-8200
September 15, 2000